

USJF Promotion Committee  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Thursday October 26, 2023**  
Fall 2023 Meeting

Topic: Promotion Committee

Time: 3:00 pm Pacific

Committee Member:

Cal Kitaura-Central Coast (Chair), Richard Nakatsu-Hawaii, Anthony Catanese-Hudson, Matsuo Takeda-Hokka, Joshua Kindelberger-Intermountain, Tom Sheehan-Konan, Hayward Nishioka-Nanka Janet Johnson-Niagara, - Rod Conduragis -Northwest, Larry Tsutsui-San Joaquin, Kevin Tamai-Shufu, Mitchell Palacio-Ex-officio,.

Zoom: Ray Imada-50th State

Absent: David Matsumoto-Daiheigen, Robert Brink-Ex-officio

Quorum

1. Call to order by acting chair Cal Kitaura **3:15pm Pacific**
2. Moment of silence for those that have passed. **done**
3. Motion to adopt the agenda. **Passed**
4. Motion to approve the minutes 7/30/2023 **Passed**
5. Chairman Nishioka remarks. **done**
6. Janet's ad-hoc committee on USJF contribution on promotion. **Motion to accept and passed (See Below for Report)**
7. USJF Policy and Procedures (J Kindelberger) – **Passed. (See Below)**
8. OTHER- JUDAN candidates – H Nishioka and Y. Uchida – check current and continuous membership – Y Uchida not a continuous member since 2014. H. Nishioka current and continuous member. First step – 8 YDK provided authority to move on to Spring 2024 meeting for promotion with Form 20 and vote (San Joaquin, Hawaii, Intermountain, Central Coast, Hudson, Hokka, Niagara, Northwest, Shufu). – 1 member did not provide the authority for Judan promotion (Daihegen)
9. Candidate list for promotion – **See Below**
10. **Motion from the floor:** In order to be put on the final NPC Candidates list, the candidate must be a current member of USJF and any back dues must be paid. They must also have **Safespots, Heads Up, Background check & First Aid & CPR certifications**. They will have **UNTIL** the deadline date to provide the missing information. If they don't, their application will be postponed and be put on candidate list for the following NPC meeting if they complete all the missing information.

Rational for motion. If an YDK sends in a promotion under their authority with information missing, the National office will not process the promotion until the candidate completes any of the missing information. **(Passed)**

Rank, Candidate, YDK	Motion	2nd	Pass	Fail	Tabled	Reason Tabled/Failed
<u><b>Nidan</b></u> Todd H. Allain - Shinnanbu				X		Incomplete application
Jeremy Young - Shinnanbu				X		Incomplete application
<u><b>Godan</b></u> Sergio Suguieda - Florida State			X			
Lewis E. Palomeque IV - Niagara			X			
Harold H. Oshima - Rokushu			X			
Dale Swett - Rokushu			X			
<u><b>Rokudan</b></u> Henry A. Kaku Central Coast				X		Incomplete application
Gerardo Tello - Florida State			X			
Curtis S. Morita - Hawaii			X			
Edwin T. Shiosaki - Nanka			X			
Jason S. Harai - Northwest			X			
Gary L. Steward - Northwest			X			
<u><b>Shichidan</b></u> Herbert M. Kogasaka - Hawaii			X			
<u><b>Hachidan</b></u> Edward S. Hanashiro - 50th State			X			
Ray T. Imada - 50th State			X			

11. Adjournment **5:10pm Pacific**

## USJF Policy and Procedure

### Promotion Process

#### Form 20 Submitted to National Office

- Must be Postdated by the deadline.
- National Office reviews submitted paperwork.
- Passed onto PC committee:
  - Documents in a spreadsheet:
    - Certifications
      - Current certifications
      - Any Deficiencies in certifications
    - Background check
      - Current
      - Deficient
- Form improperly completed:
  - National Office contacts respective Yudanshakai with a 30-day deadline to return the completed form to National Office.
  - Form will be sent to PC for promotional consideration as the deficiencies are corrected.
- PC committee has authority to discuss and evaluate each candidate for promotional consideration.
- PC will document deficiencies in the promotion and contact the National office. National office will contact the Yudanshakai and candidate, listing any deficiencies.
  - A deadline will be stated for the deficiencies to be corrected
  - All post PC action should be handled by the NO, including items needed from the YDKs and candidate
- National Office will review to ensure deficiencies have been corrected.
- National Office will generate a certificate for promotion.

# PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR PROMOTION TO THE RANKS OF ROKUDAN, SHICHIDAN, AND HACHIDAN

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# PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR PROMOTION TO THE RANKS OF ROKUDAN, SHICHDAN, AND HACHIDAN

This document describes recommendations of our committee for guidelines concerning contributions to the promotion to Rokudan, Shichidan, and Hachidan. The evaluation of applications for promotions to these ranks falls within the realms of objectifiable, concrete information as well as the abstract. We balance accomplishments, abilities, and the attributes of the individual along with character, skill, leadership abilities, and dedication to the Judo community. The guidelines we offer below seek tangible and measurable evidence while expecting to quantify ideas or concepts that are difficult to assess objectively well. It is expected that candidates exhibit measurable qualitative and quantitative growth as a contributing person to society through their practice of judo from their current rank to the rank applied. This objective and subjective process can be determined through testing, evaluation, success of students, and maturation of skill and delivery, among other aspects of evaluation. Not only are candidates' contributions to Judo considered, but especially are their contributions to greater society, in line with the loftier tenets of Judo. Rank must have merit and *the journey through rank is unique to every individual*. Agreement by the Promotion Committee on these principles assures that progression through these higher ranks has viable potential.

Below, we first describe background philosophy for earlier dan ranks and the associated basic expectations for each grade for promotion consideration. We also provide below definitions related to contributions based on their short- and long-term impact. Lastly, there is a recommendation for the promotion process to increase the amount of information related to the potential candidate(s) by the respective Yudanshakais.

## BACKGROUND PHILOSOPHY

Philosophically, our Promotion Committee has agreed that the progression through the Dan ranks should reflect a notable change in the individual over time, as well as a progression from an internal to a more external focus. Due to this progression, the certifications the USJF offers should be earned primarily through the Shodan through Godan development stages.

## STUDENT RANKS – SHODAN, NIDAN, AND SANDAN

The three student Dan ranks of Shodan, Nidan, and Sandan show the growth of a Judoka from a fledgling of the Shodan Rank, progressing with focus primarily on self-development. This internal focus is primarily related to the technical aspects of Judo skills, strategies, and areas of interest. As a judoka progresses through these first three Dan ranks, there should be a demonstration of continued development through the guided sharing of those developing skills and interests on to beginning to learn the art of teaching.

### Shodan

Shodan candidates are ready to “hatch from the egg.” They are now ready to focus on the development of their own judo, while continuing to expand understanding and technical ability of a range of tachiwaza, newaza and competitive skills. They may also do guided teaching in the

dojo. They begin to explore the opportunities for courses available to expand their knowledge and understanding.

### **Nidan**

Nidan candidates are still primarily internally focused on self-development and depth of knowledge and understanding, are expanding their role as an assistant teacher in general classes in the dojo. They continue to take advantage of certification and education courses to expand their knowledge and understanding and better share with others.

### **Sandan**

Sandan candidates are starting to independently personalize their Judo style, have a greater understanding of technical aspects of Judo, and are learning the art of how to begin to teach independently not only general classes in the dojo, but share knowledge in areas of interest as well.

## **SENSEI RANKS – YONDAN AND GODAN**

Yondan and Godan are considered Sensei ranks within the United States. People of these Dan ranks are willing and able to share knowledge, understanding, and strategy with technical proficiency, accuracy, and skill of delivery.

### **Yondan**

Yondan candidates are teaching with a greater understanding of Judo, are involved at the club and local level, and increase service to the club and to students. They have entered the first stage as an independent teacher. This requires a solid level of understanding of judo. It is expected that they be able to teach all aspects of judo commensurate with their rank and are clearly a leader within the club.

### **Godan**

Godan candidates are involved at a club and Yudanshakai level and are encouraged but not required to be involved at the regional and national level, based on their area of personal expertise. They have entered the second stage as an independent teacher having a greater understanding of technical Judo, of teaching all ages and skill levels, and with increased ability to adapt to the learning needs of all students. A high level of understanding of all judo is required, as they are expected to be able to teach all aspects of Judo commensurate with their rank. They are clearly recognized leaders in the club and region.

## **MASTER RANKS – ROKUDAN, SHICHIDAN, AND HACHIDAN**

### **OVERVIEW**

The ranks of Rokudan through Hachidan signify both quantitative and qualitative growth, development, and maturation that transcends the individual and any previous or current activities and is recognizable within those they meet, teach, and mentor. What is abundantly clear for these ranks is that they should be associated with *qualitative growth of the candidate as a continuing self-actualizing person who matures and evolves over time; thus, applications should reflect*

***and provide evidence of that maturation and continuing self-actualization*** and not merely list activities or accomplishments. What is also abundantly clear for these ranks is that ***meeting minimum time in grade requirements and other markers of the passage of time are not sufficient grounds for promotion. Evidence should be proffered for evaluation of the candidate's evolution as a selfless person, which goes beyond quantifiable checklists and into subjective realms of character maturation and contribution evaluation.*** Moreover, the stature of the applicant as a leader in the community and society as a whole becomes a critical focus.

Rokudan, Shichidan, and Hachidan are considered Master Ranks. Master Rank candidates are life-long learners and have made a transition to a selfless approach to Judo and life, sharing Judo, developing others, and contributing to society. Time and effort in Judo is significantly greater than in Student or Sensei ranks, as they are also master educators, sharing their passion and depth of knowledge with others selflessly. They will have students that emulate the example taught to contribute to society and the Judo community within the *Time In Grade* period. Remaining a lifelong learner while progressing in skill of delivery, remaining open to new concepts and ideas, and absorbing new or different material is critically important. They embody the values of Judo, specifically humility, and they strive to take in pure information prior to analysis, thus giving new knowledge a chance. The embracing of new concepts before automatically rejecting a differing process, thought, or idea provides a leading example and demonstration of a model for others to follow. Notoriety, stature, and technical proficiency are key attributes to applications for these ranks. The skills and contributions of a person during their *Time In Grade* period should unquestionably speak to the quality and qualifications of the individual. This is partly due to the human perspective attributing the contributions to judo equal to what the candidate has learned from judo. The application should clearly state that the contributions are because of judo and/or articulate the seemingly common knowledge known by others that the contributions were made from lessons learned from or by judo.

*At some point, your rank is not yours; it belongs to your students.*

There is an expectation the candidate will be well known by the committee, the greater judo community, and perhaps even those outside of the judo world, based on their contributions to Judo and society over an extended period of time. Notoriety and stature along with technical proficiency can be demonstrated in a variety of ways.

## **Rokudan**

Rokudan candidates have made a transition to a selfless approach to Judo, sharing Judo, and developing others. Time and effort in Judo is significantly greater than as a Godan. They should be an inspiration to others. They will have students that emulate the example taught to contribute to society and the Judo community within the *Time In Grade* period. They must have local impact – growth outside the dojo. They are a leader within their club, local area and may expand to the regional and the national level.

## **Shichidan**

Shichidan candidates should have at least regional impact within their Yudanshakai and be regionally and possibly nationally or internationally known for their expertise. This may include recognition in judo administration, the accomplishments of their students should carry significance, and they should at minimum have contributions at the regional level, which must be reflected within the *Time In Grade* period. Regional impact means that there is growth outside

the local area to include the Yudanshakai and the state or region at the very least. The Shichidan candidate should invoke meaning and purpose to what we do, providing higher and more personalized motivation and inspiration regardless of the student's level through their direct interactions with students, on the mat and in uniform.

## Hachidan

Hachidan candidates should, within the *Time In Grade* period, have well-known national and likely international impact through their expertise or through their direct students. Judoka actively involved in the national activities directed by the USJF should know the impact of their Judo, abilities, knowledge, and areas of expertise. Everyone attending national meetings should know their name, reputation, and areas of expertise. Candidates should also be focusing on succession planning to develop those to carry on their legacy. They should be a solid, unquestioned role model of the true Judoka. Their active service, sharing their knowledge and expertise, can be seen and experienced through a variety of ways in the four criterion areas described below.

## CONTRIBUTION TYPES

There are many different types of contributions that judo practitioners can make and that can be used in promotion applications. For the purpose of this document, we divide contributions roughly into **short- and long-term** contributions. Rokudan, Shichidan, and Hachidan candidates should have a combination of these and other types of contributions and the amount and/or quality of these contributions should notably develop in depth and maturation with each *Time In Grade* cycle. Selfless contribution and the resultant notoriety and stature of a candidate ought to become increasingly evident as individuals rise through these high master ranks.

### Short-Term Contributions

Many short-term contributions correlate closely to the deductions for *Time In Grade* that can be recorded on the current USJF Promotion Application (Form 20) and attachments. Short-term contributions include, but are not limited to:

- As a Sensei, the candidate is able to demonstrate the ability to teach and coach with a notable level of quality.
- Active participation in national meetings with evidence of efficacy.
- Active service on National committees, sub-committees and Ad Hoc committees with evidence of efficacy.
- Chairing a National committee, sub-committee or Ad Hoc committee with evidence of efficacy.
- Being an active voting delegate for National meetings.
- Serving as an executive officer with evidence of efficacy.
- Local, Regional, and National Officer positions with evidence of efficacy.
- Certifications such as:
  - Kata teaching or judging
  - Referee educator or Pan American or International referee
  - Coaching
  - Teaching

## Long-Term Contributions

Many long-term contributions are not necessarily addressed directly in the USJF Promotion Application (Form 20), but ought to be reflected in the application package for Master Rank promotions. Long-term contributions include activities and accomplishments that transcend any particular time in grade period and rank promotion. Examples may include but not be limited to the following:

1. Developing and disseminating business models that can help others be successful in judo that have evolved across time beyond any time in grade period.
2. Developing and distributing scholarly materials, such as authoring books, writing articles, conducting and disseminating research, conducting lecture and keynote tours, and the like.
3. Developing programs that have a positive impact for multiple generations in any and all areas of judo.

Of particular relevance for this document is the note that both short- and especially long-term contributions that occurred in one time in grade period and counted for a promotion can be used for subsequent time in grade activities and promotion applications; yet for promotions to the Master Ranks, applications need to demonstrate how the previous activities led to a continuous evolution and maturation of the individual toward a self-actualizing individual with contributions to greater society.

## PROPOSED PROMOTION GUIDELINES

Below we provide guidelines for promotion to the ranks of Rokudan, Shichidan, and Hachidan assembled into four broad bucket areas. The buckets are not meant to be mutually exclusive or exhaustive; other areas deemed applicable to provide evidence for the type of ***quantitative and qualitative growth and maturation of the person as a selfless, self-actualizing individual*** should be considered. Such development and maturation should be quantitatively and qualitatively different and improved over the previous rank; that is, Rokudan applicants should demonstrate growth and maturation since the rank of Godan, Shichidan applicants should demonstrate growth and maturation since the rank of Rokudan, etc.

### Technical Proficiency

***Criterion: Candidates for these ranks should have a past and/or current record of impeccable technical proficiency and continued improvement in such proficiency;*** thus, resting on one's past laurels is insufficient for continued promotion after the time such laurels were attained. Expertise is a contribution based in results of the individual's competitive career, and the intentional focus on giving back to the judo community based on those results. Examples of evidence for improvement in technical proficiency include but are not limited to:

1. Competitive success since the attainment of the last previous rank.
2. Attainment of international referee licenses or continued and improved involvement in officiating in international level competition.
3. Continued and/or increasing kata proficiency on the international or world stage or the continued learning or mastery of kata.
4. Continued and/or increasingly successful coaching at IJF sanctioned events internationally.

5. Continued and/or increasingly successful participation of one's students in national or international competition.
6. Continued and/or Increased knowledge and mastery of the history of judo, judo philosophy, or other judo related topics.
7. Continued and/or increased invitations to teach or coach internationally, particularly outside of North America.

## Administrative Contributions

***Criterion: Candidates for these ranks should have a past and/or current record of impeccable service to the administration of judo and continued efficacy in such services;*** thus, resting on one's past contributions is insufficient for continued promotion after the time such contributions were made. Also, continued efficacy refers to not only serving in positions, but ***demonstrating effectiveness in that service.*** Examples of evidence for continued improvement in administrative contributions include but are not limited to:

1. Organizing, hosting, or instructing at judo camps, clinics, workshops, or other educational or developmental activities, particularly with participants and/or instructors from outside the U.S., with evidence of their success. This may include technical proficiency opportunities for both community and competitive programs with the intent to give back to the judo community.
2. Developing programs that have a positive impact for multiple generations, with evidence for their success. These may include but not be limited to:
  - Developing programs to teach others how to teach, coach, and lead others.
  - Developing education programs within a school district.
  - Developing community based program for at-risk youth.
  - Developing programs to teach others how to create, organize and teach judo clinics or seminars.
  - Developing programs on how to lead others through the teachings of Professor Kano, through judo.
  - Developing programs to teach others how to conduct tournaments and be a Tournament Director.
3. Creation of instructional materials and other media, and the successful dissemination and promulgation of such materials.
4. Evidence of success in administrative positions, not just holding a position (e.g., numbers of individuals who received certifications under one's program, etc.).
5. Developing and sharing business models that can help others be successful in judo, with focus on topics such as marketing, professionalizing, branding, etc., and evidence for the success of such model dissemination.
6. Evidence of succession planning in all areas of judo in which the candidate is involved.

## Teacher/Educator Contributions

***Criterion: Candidates for these ranks should have a past and current record of impeccable contributions as teachers and educators of judo and continued success in such activities;*** thus, resting on one's past contributions as a teacher/educator is insufficient for continued promotion after the time such contributions were made. Examples of evidence for continued improvement in teacher/educator contributions include but are not limited to:

1. Successful and continuing or increasing registration of students in one's dojo across the time in grade period.
2. Continued and/or increasing numbers of one's students promoted to dan ranks since the last promotion.
3. Continued and/or increasing success of one's students in teaching, administering, coaching, refereeing judo.
4. Continued and/or increasing success of one's students as competitors.
5. Growth and contributions of one's students outside the region and to the national level or beyond, with evidence that such growth and contributions occurred in part due to the applicant.
6. The conduct of Master Class sessions with higher ranking individuals.
7. Being sought out by others, especially those at higher ranks, for expertise, to study specifically with the candidate. This may include hosting visiting students at one's dojo (local or international), and the length of time the student(s) spent with the candidate. This may also include having students sent to acquire specific skill sets such as kata, specific techniques, competitive skills, coaching skills, refereeing skills, teaching skills, etc.
8. Creating instructional videos and evidence for the successful dissemination of such materials.
9. Being invited to teach clinics throughout the country and internationally.
10. Demonstrating and modeling how one can be an active and effective teacher without necessarily being able to demonstrate the skills as they once could. There is more than one way to be active in Judo. Actively teaching from the side of the mat is still being an active practitioner.
11. Evidence that one's students surpassed the candidate in measurable ways.

## Societal Contributions

***Criterion: Candidates for these ranks should have a past and/or current record of impeccable contributions to the greater judo community and society as a whole.*** Evidence should be brought to bear by the candidates of their increased stature of citizens of the world and exemplars of judo. As in the original tenets of Kodokan Judo, societal contributions through professions may not be limited to certain professions. It is not the profession, but how the individual has engaged in that profession in service to and by judo. Examples of evidence for continued improvement in societal contributions include but are not limited to:

1. Scholarly record of judo related publications, especially in multiple languages.
2. Evidence of lecture tours or clinics provided in multiple, different countries.
3. Letters of recommendations or testimonials from people outside of judo and the U.S. testifying to the contributions of the individual because of judo.
4. Creation of work or products with national and/or international distribution.
5. Development and distribution of scholarly materials, such as:
  - o Authoring a book
  - o Writing articles
  - o Conducting research
  - o Giving lecture tours
  - o Delivering Keynotes or Regional, National or International Clinics/Lectures
6. Receiving awards for lifetime achievements such as an IJF Award

## 7. Professional contributions to society

### For all Applications to the Master Ranks

*Applications for these Master Ranks should bring to bear evidence in the four areas above, and any others, that demonstrate the continued evolution and maturation of the candidate as a selfless, self-actualizing individual who contributes to the greater good of society through their continued practice of and involvement in judo.* Evidence should be primarily focused on content since the previous promotion; that is, applications for Rokudan should provide evidence in the areas above since the rank of Godan. Likewise, applications for Shichidan should provide evidence in the areas above since the rank of Rokudan, and applications for Hachidan should provide evidence in the areas above since the rank of Shichidan.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the guidelines above, this committee makes the following recommendations to the application process for applications to the Master Ranks, in order to ensure that the review of applicants reflects integrity and quality along that guidelines and criteria mentioned above.

### FOR THE PROMOTION COMMITTEE

- a. Standardize the process used for the review of every application that is brought to the table.
- b. Come to agreement that a qualified candidate should have measurable growth through their current rank and be worthy of promotion to the next level. The term measurable means an objective process determined through testing, evaluation, success of students, and maturation of skill and delivery.
- c. Conduct annual mandatory Zoom (or other on-line) training sessions for each Yudanshakai Promotion Committee Chair to attend to review all the Rank Requirement Recommendations, application process, completion regulations, and time limitations.
- d. Provide examples for the candidates and Yudanshakai to follow. The collection of relevant information and evidence will fall on the candidate and the respective Yudanshakai Promotion Committee.
- e. This Zoom training is particularly important for the Master rank promotion applications.

### FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE MASTER RANKS

- f. Application packages to the Master Ranks should include the following:
  - i. The candidate's curriculum vitae.
  - ii. A self-statement that summarizes the candidate's accomplishments and evolution as a selfless and self-actualized individual contributing to society through the four criteria areas.
  - iii. An indexed set of supplementary materials that represent the candidate's accomplishments in the four criteria areas. The supplementary materials should provide evidence for as many of the four criteria described above and any others as deemed relevant by the submitting Yudanshakai. Examples may include the following:

1. Accomplishments and awards through the *Time In Grade* period as well as Lifetime Achievement awards.
2. Contributions made within the *Time In Grade* period at the **local level** (Club or Yudanshakai), **regional level** (large Yudanshakai or state-wide), **national level**, and if it applies to the candidate, **international level**, as appropriate for the rank being applied for.
3. A balance of short, and long-term contributions should be clearly articulated by the candidate.
4. Special certifications that might not be reflected in the *Time In Grade* reductions.
5. Students who emulate the example(s) taught directly by the candidate to contribute to society and the Judo community within the *Time In Grade* period.
6. Contributions made to Judo by students of the candidate.
7. Success(s) of students achieved by students of the candidate.
8. Evidence of succession planning for whatever aspect of judo these individuals are engaged in.

- iv. Names and contact information for at least three individuals from whom the promotion committee can solicit letters of recommendation, and who can objectively and professionally evaluate the candidate's application. For applications to Hachidan, at least one of these individuals should be outside the judo community.

## FOR YUDANSHAKAIS

- g. The submitting Yudanshakai has primary responsibility for the correct, error-free and sequential organization of the application package.
- h. Application packages must be submitted by the closing date as determined by the USJF Promotion Committee.
- i. Yudanshakai need to inform their higher-ranking membership of the expectation that they attend, participate, and present and/or contribute at regional and national events, to include national meetings, unless their exemplary previous contributions are well known and recognized. As always, consideration for exemption may be given to those with physical or financial limitations.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we would like to leave you with this thought:

***TRUE TEACHERS ALWAYS WANT THEIR STUDENTS TO EXCEED WHAT THEY WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THEMSELVES.***

USJF Promotion Committee  
MINUTES  
July 30, 2023  
Teleconference

Topic: Promotion Committee

Time: July 30, 2023 9:00am Hawaii, Alaskan, 11:00, Pacific 12:00, Mountain 1:00, Central 2:00, Eastern 3:00

Committee Member:

Ray Imada-50th State, Cal Kitaura-Central Coast, David Matsumoto-Daiheigen, Richard Nakatsu-Hawaii, Anthony Catanese-Hudson, Matsuo Takeda-Hokka, Joshua Kindelberger-Intermountain, Tom Sheehan-Konan, Hayward Nishioka-Nanka, Janet Johnson-Niagara, Michael Purcell-Northwest, Larry Tsutsui-San Joaquin, Kevin Tamai-Shufu, Mitchell Palacio-Ex-officio, Robert Brink-Ex-officio.

Quorum

1. Call to order by acting Michael Purcell **Quorum established**  
**Meeting called to order 9:04am HST**
2. Moment of silence for those that have passed.
3. Motion to adopt the agenda. **Suspend USJF by-laws to have M. Purcell conduct meeting. Motion accepted and passed to add Agenda items #11 and #12. Agenda item #13 FAILS (see below)**
4. Motion to approve the minutes 4/14/23 **approved with comment that Ex-officio Brink has no vote. CORRECTION - acting chair CAN vote in the event of a tie. After providing the names of observers, we will vote on the minutes either by email or next meeting.**
5. Chairman Nishioka remarks.
6. Janet's ad-hoc committee on USJF contribution on promotion. **Attached Will need more work on editing report**
7. USJF Policy and Procedures motion by Josh Kindelberger. Continued in the works. Below in previous minutes **Motion made and approved to include additional edits AND additional motion passed**
8. Motion: To use the **new excel sheet** to be used by National Office for Promotion Committee for the candidates. **Attached Motion made and approved for USJF National office to initially input and PC committee to assist and finish with input. Motion passed**
9. **ADD:** Discuss Scheduling of PC meeting – **Withdrawn**
10. Motion to BoE that Lewis Palomeque passing his Godan promotion will be back dated to 4/14/23. **Motion made and approved**

**11. ADD:** Judan Promotion Promotions **Motion – (TSUTSUI)** Start process for Judan for H. NISHIOKA AND Y. UCHIDA where members of the promotion committee go back to their YDKs for support as we need 50% of the YDK support to proceed (PASSED).

**MOTION (TSUTSUI)-** PC to hold annual training for YDK on promotion paperwork and procedures(PASSED). Chair to appoint someone to lead training. To follow current written guidelines. as written for YDK approval prior to presentation to PC – Motion Passed. Therefore waiving guidelines for Judan consideration for Y. Uchida and H. Nishioka (NOT passed).

**12. ADD MOTION FAILS:** R. Imada promotion to Hachidan- **YES – (3)** Nishioka, Sheehan, Tsutsui; **NO (5)**

Johnson, Tamai, Matsumoto, Kitaura, Kindleberger; Abstain – (1) Nakatsu

**13. RECONSIDER PROMOTION OF R. IMADA TO HACHIDAN. YES – Nishioka, Brink, Tsutsui, Kitaura, Sheehan; NO – Johnson; Abstain – Nakatsu (Tamai, Matsumoto, and Kindelberger departed**

**meeting ). Motion passed. Statement from (Brink) – Once Promotion passes PC committee, promotion deemed passed.**

**14. ADD:** Lewis Palomeque passing his Godan promotion - **Motion made and approved**

**15. Motion to adjournment.11:26 HST**

### **Chairman's Remarks 7-30-2023** **Hayward Nishioka**

**Everyone has a lifespan. We don't know how long it is most of the time. It starts at conception and ends at death. In between we go through phases, childhood, adolescence, adult, middle age, old age, old, old, age. In these phases we do things: grow and learn, learn to exist, get a job, raise a family, get old and frail, and eventually die. Sounds rather sad, that is, unless you are a judoka.**

**Now you have a magic gift, a tool to enhance the quality of your life physically, mentally, and emotionally. As judoka you are suddenly thrust on this journey. As one of Kano's famous saying goes, "There is but one journey of life." Here he brings to life the idea that it is not forever. Your time is finite and must be given serious thought. Thus, Seiryoku zenryo, maximize your efficiency. To do this is to better oneself. Jiko no kansei,**

Self-perfection, this is one of his aphorisms that is forgotten but is to be read into Jita kyoei , Mutual welfare and Benefit. It kind of fits the Golden Rule, of Do unto others as you would do unto yourself. That is part of what we do. Always trying to find a mutually beneficial outcome. but not always possible. A student supposedly asked Kano shihan, “ How can you have self-perfection and Mutual welfare and benefit at the same time? One is thinking of the SELF while the other idea is to assist OTHERS? He answered,” Let’s think of two countries at war, you are a citizen of one country, the other is now at war with yours, naturally you have to side with your country ”. It’s only when there is a possibility of mutual benefit that we do so. Think about USAJ vs USJF. We let them into our tournaments, do they do likewise? In fact, there are people who logically think, well, if I can just pay one side and get into both, why join the other. You get the picture. That’s how they increased their numbers.

On the subject of contributions, basically it’s any acts or thoughts given to making life better for our fellow judoka in the USJF. Even the act of going to the dojo and helping out a little, is a contribution. Ah, but how do go-about adequately quantifying what a contribution is. Also, there are Contributions that are greater than others. Unlike sequential points in tournament play. There are contributions that have a timeliness order about them. If not done at the right time they cannot be done. "A" referees by age 65, "A" level competitor by 35 years of age or forget it!

The reason I mention this is that while we mention a lot of ways to be elevated to the next rank, we are diminishing the number of ways to make it possible to advance. Someone should contribute some time and figure out how we could use rank as a means of advancing our judoka who in turn will advance the USJF. What areas are needed? Reasons why some areas are fading away, or growing, or need to be attended to. Assessing and data mining are going to be needed in the future if USJF and Promotions are to be meaningful.

While I have heard many wonderful words flying back and forth as to what a certain dan rank is it is still hard to say because no one has of yet quantified what a contribution is for a certain rank. That’s because it would take a lot of energy and time to write them down as a certification.

What’s the value of a certification? Two of our best certifications are for refereeing, and for kata. They both standardize and test for minimum qualifications. They also have a self-regulating ongoing continuing education program. The areas that are coming up are teaching, coaching, which are building up now.

Here are a few for the future. Certifications that could help to make for a better USJF, but they have to be written up, tested, practiced, and

have a continuing ed program. Certifications for: Rules of Order, Grant writing, Data mining for judo. Think Tanks, Story Telling for judo, News writing for judo, Videomaking for judo, running a money making dojo. Teaching seniors how to fall correctly, judo games and training. Etc.

Just remember this. A contribution is anything that will help to make a better person and a better organization, but it has to be written down. "An uttered word can disappear into thin air, but a written word can last a 1000 years."

Lastly, going back to LIFESPAN. I will not be running for reelection at the end of my term. As I said before I am getting too old for this and it's time for another generation to take over. I will be investing what little time I have left into writing a book on judo. I hope that your journey will be as good as mine was for me. I thank my mentors and colleagues.